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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/457,466	12/08/1999	BRAD HANDLER	003801.P004	7716
7590	04/13/2004		EXAMINER	
BLAKEY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD 7TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025			ELISCA, PIERRE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/457,466	HANDLER, BRAD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Pierre E. Elisca	3621	<i>MW</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 3-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 3-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>25</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed on 2/4/2004.
2. Claims 3-6 are remained and claims 7-24 are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 3-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fisher et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,243,691) and Cooper ("Going going gone, Tradition gives way to technology, British Telecom World, March 1990) in view of Biais, Bruno et al. An empirical analysis of the limit order book and the order flow in the Paris Bourse December 1995.**

As per claims 3-6 and 7-24 Fisher substantially discloses a system/method for conducting a multi-person (or in-person), interactive auction, the method comprising the steps of:

updating bidding information associated with an item in an online environment to reflect a current bid associated with the item, in person auction (see., col 8, lines 39-55, specifically wherein it is stated that updating the bid list for open items. The bid manager

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begins by checking if there are more merchandise items to be processed. If such items are found, the bid manager selects a merchandise item to process and queries the bid database for bids for this items);

accepting a bid from an online bidder in the online environment reflecting the online bidder's maximum proxy price (see., col 8, lines 61-67, specifically wherein it is stated that the auction manager will increase the bid as necessary up to the limit amount. The feature allows the customer to get the lowest possible price without exceeded a limit preferably. Applicant should duly note that a proxy bid or maximum proxy bid is a special bid type that allows auction manager to automatically bid on the bidder's behalf up to a limited amount established by the bidder when his or her initial bid is placed); and

bidding on behalf of the online bidder against one or more bidders that are participating in the in-person auction based upon the maximum proxy price (see., col 8, lines 56-67, col 9, lines 1-6, specifically wherein it is stated that a proxy bid is a special bid type that allows auction manager to automatically bid on the bidder's behalf up to a limited amount established by the bidder when his or her initial bid is placed).

It is to be noted that Fisher does not explicitly disclose that his auction is a live auction. However, **Cooper** discloses bidders from remote bid against participant in a live auction (see., page 1, paragraph 9-10) . Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the online bidding auction of **Fisher** by including the live auction taught by **Cooper** because

such modification would provide the online bidding auction of **Fisher** with the enhanced necessary to have the benefit of broadening audience and cost saving.

Neither Fisher nor Cooper disclose in person auction, establishing a starting bid for an item in an online environment by performing an interactive pre-auction bidding process in the online environment for a predetermined amount of time, the pre-auction bidding process including communicating the item to online users, receiving bids for the item from online bidders, and choosing as the starting bid a highest bid from the bids received.

Biais Bruno discloses a daily call auction to a computerized limit order market in which trading occurs continuously from 10 AM to 5 PM. The opening price at 10 AM is determined by a call auction. **Prior to this call auction, a sequence of tentative call auctions occurs before the opening, in order to facilitate the price discovery process** (see., **Biais Bruno**, page 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of **Fisher and Cooper** by including the limitations detailed above as taught by **Biais Bruno** because this would provide the online bidding auction of **Fisher and Cooper** with the enhanced necessary to analyze the supply and demand of liquidity of the limit order market.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 2/4/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Necessitated by Amendment.

REMARKS

6. In response to Applicant's arguments, Applicant argues that the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature:

- a. " prior to a live, in person auction, establishing a starting bid for an item in an online environment by performing an interactive pre-auction". Based upon foregoing rejection detailed above, it is believed that Cooper discloses this limitation wherein said bidders from remote bid against participant in a live auction (see., page 1, paragraph 9-10).
- b. " performing the interactive pre-auction bidding process". However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees since **Biais Bruno** discloses a daily call auction to a computerized limit order market in which trading occurs continuously from 10 AM to 5 PM. The opening price at 10 AM is determined by a call auction. **Prior to this call auction, a sequence of tentative call auctions occurs before the opening, in order to facilitate the price discovery process** (see., Biais Bruno, page 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of **Fisher and Cooper** by including the limitations detailed above as taught by Biais Bruno because this would provide the online bidding auction of **Fisher and Cooper** with the enhanced necessary to analyze the supply and demand of liquidity of the limit order market.

Conclusion

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7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Primary Patent Examiner

April 05, 2004